



Haleakalā National Park

Summit Area Transportation Management Plan/EA

Planning for the Future of Haleakalā

The summit of Haleakalā is a special place to Maui residents and visitors alike. The crater area's natural and cultural resources were recognized in 1916 as nationally significant and placed under federal protection as Haleakalā National Park. The U. S. Congress mandated that the National Park Service preserve the park's unique native Hawaiian resources unimpaired for public education, inspiration and enjoyment.

Over the years, summit visitor facilities of Haleakalā have become crowded at sunrise and throughout the morning hours, presenting numerous management challenges. Visitation is expected to continue its upward trend. More cars, buses and bikes will be traversing Crater Road to the summit, where parking demand already exceeds capacity. It is clearly time to study existing conditions, visitation forecasts and innovative ways to manage transportation and visitor use.

The National Park Service's Alternative Transportation Program will help us explore transportation options and determine viable strategies for change. We need your help, ideas and concerns to produce the best plan possible; one that will meet the needs of the park and its visitors long into the future.

The first public meeting and workshop will be on **Thursday, April 10, 2003 at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the Mayor Hannibal Tavares Community Center, Multipurpose Room. We invite you to come learn about the proposed study and share your ideas with Haleakalā National Park staff and professional planners.

Aloha,
Don Reeser, Superintendent

Background

The National Park Service is beginning the process of developing a Transportation Management Plan for the 11 mile Haleakalā Highway (SH 378) corridor within the park boundary.

Approximately 1.3 million people travel annually to the summit of Haleakalā along a two lane, 26 mile winding road that provides the only access. While this study is focused on the eleven miles within the park's boundaries, the plan will look at the regional context of the road as well.

We will be considering all appropriate transportation modes and ideas. Our plan will look for ideas beyond just accommodating more cars and tour vans at the summit of Haleakalā. We will consider management options along with different transportation modes to develop the best possible plan.

A sunrise visit at the summit is the most popular activity in the park. More than 30 groups of bicycling expeditions assemble on top with vans and trailer units. They are joined by a large number of private vehicles beginning the trip to the summit well before sunrise. The two summit parking areas are designed to accommodate 105 cars, 18 bike tour vans and three buses, but are overfilled nearly every day. As bike tours and vehicular traffic begin their descent from the summit, safety on the road becomes everyone's concern. However, once the sunrise to mid-morning rush is over, the summit is relatively uncrowded.

While Maui's visitation continues to climb, it is important to protect its number one tourist destination, an integral part of the island's tourist-based economy. Haleakalā National Park provides outdoor recreational and educational opportunities to the general public, unavailable anywhere else on the island.

Park Purpose and Significance

The General Management Plan (GMP) for Haleakalā National Park establishes the overall direction for management of the park. The GMP provides important guidance to the Summit Area Transportation Management Plan. The purpose and significance of the park was affirmed in the GMP. The most relevant parts of the purpose and significance statements from the GMP are included below.

The purpose of Haleakalā National Park is to:

- Protect the unique geologic, biotic, and cultural resources of Haleakalā

The Summit Area of Haleakalā National Park is significant because:

- It contains a remarkable and unusual diversity of exquisitely preserved volcanic features, including almost all the familiar features of volcanic activity including craters, cinder cones, lava flows, and valleys formed by erosion.
- The dry forest zone is found on the leeward slopes of Haleakalā, in areas with 20 to 60 inches of annual rainfall. Small patches of dry forest are preserved in Kaupō Gap.
- Endemic species evolved in the Hawaiian Islands from ancestral colonizers and are unique to specific areas. The ‘āhinahina (Haleakalā silversword) is endemic to the upper slopes of Haleakalā, and catches moisture through its shallow root system in the porous, loose cinders. Long tap roots anchor the plants in the high wind.
- Haleakalā National Park is home to a small population of the rarest goose in the world, the nēnē. Nēnē are protected in the higher elevations on Maui where fewer predators exist. With a nēnē population of about 250 residing in Haleakalā National Park, every bird counts.

Goals

Goals from the GMP will also guide our work on this study:

- Haleakalā National Park protects the geological features and the biological communities that characterize a volcanic island.
- The public enjoys a range of recreational and educational opportunities that are compatible with protecting the park’s resources.
- The park’s wilderness areas retain natural conditions and offer remarkable opportunities for solitude.
- The public has opportunities to learn about and appreciate the park’s diverse history and prehistory and cultural resources.
- The public receives efficient and coordinated services from the National Park Service.

Issues

NPS managers and resource experts have identified the following issues for the Transportation Management Plan to address:

- Safety concerns due to the narrow, tightly curved road
- Accidents and roadway congestion caused by bike tours
- Effects on air quality from vehicle traffic
- Traffic congestion and overflow parking at the summit parking areas

- Impacts to road shoulders from illegally parked cars
- Impacts to ecological and cultural resources
- Collisions between autos and nēnē
- Visitor crowding at the summit facilities and viewing areas.

Issues and concerns:

What are your interests and concerns relating to access for visitors to the summit area of Haleakalā National Park? This is a preliminary list of potential issues to consider. We will expand this list with issues from the public as we receive them.

Transportation and Access

What kind of transportation system will be needed for travel to and access within the park?

- Should the road to the summit be upgraded or changed?
- How should problems of parking overflow be addressed?
- Should new modes of transportation be provided?

Public/Visitor Use and Safety

What will be the extent and location of public uses within the park? What kinds of experiences do visitors want?

- How will the recreational uses of the park be affected?
- Which visitor activities are suitable? Where, when and of what scale can they occur?
- What is the appropriate level of visitor use to assure a good experience while protecting sensitive resources?
- How should use by different groups be managed?
- How will the public be informed about visit options?
- How can we address safety concerns associated with visitor use?
- Which public services will be provided by the federal government and which by local governments or private entities? Which will be provided jointly?
- What opportunities will there be for enhancing understanding and appreciation of Haleakalā National Park?
- What kind of transportation and/or visitor management is appropriate for the summit area of the park?
- How will the quality of the visitor’s experience improve?

Natural and Cultural Resources

How will the natural and cultural resources be protected?

- How will the fragile and significant geological features and other natural resources be protected from visitor use impacts?
- How does visitation and transportation issues affect cultural resources?



Ways You Can Participate

Schedule	Planning Activity	Public Participation Opportunities
Spring 2003 to Summer 2003 We are here!	1. Set the Stage for Planning The first step is to lay the foundation for everything that is done in the plan. Statements of park purpose and significance are reviewed to ensure that everything we do is consistent with the reason that the park was established. Issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the plan are identified. This helps to focus our work and determine the scope of the planning effort.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in open house (April). • Read and comment on newsletter (April - May).
Summer 2003 to Summer 2004	2. Gather Data and Develop/Analyze Alternatives The NPS planning team will be working to better understand how visitors use the park, learn more about the issues, identify opportunities for solving problems, and develop ideas for the future. Data on how visitors use the summit area will be collected in July. Concepts for alternatives will be generated. Details of the alternatives will be defined to support evaluation of the potential consequences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in workshops. • Read and comment on second newsletter.
Summer 2004 to Winter 2004/2005	3. Publish Draft Summit Area Transportation Management Plan Environmental Assessment The <i>Draft Plan EA</i> will be published for public review. Public comments on the draft will be accepted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in meetings. • Review and comment on the <i>Draft Plan EA</i>.
Winter 2004/2005 to Fall 2005	4. Publish Final Summit Area Transportation Management Plan Environmental Assessment Based on public comments, appropriate revisions to the draft will be made and a <i>Final Summit Area Transportation Management Plan EA</i> will be developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in meetings.
Fall 2005 and Beyond	5. Record of Decision and Plan Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the park to see the improvements.

Written Comments

For those of you unable to attend public meetings, or prefer to respond by mail, we have provided a mail-back comment form. Please take the time to jot down your concerns on transportation issues at Haleakalā. All of the information we receive will be used as the foundation for the planning process. Your participation is vital to the success of this project.

For general information see:

www.nps.gov/hale

Send comments to:

Haleakalā Transportation Management Plan
Haleakalā National Park
P.O. Box 369
Makawao, HI 96768

Telephone calls are welcome:

To record your comments on the ATP, please call 808-572-4400 to leave a message.

Comments can also be sent to :

frank_baublits@nps.gov



Crater Road, 1939- NPS photo

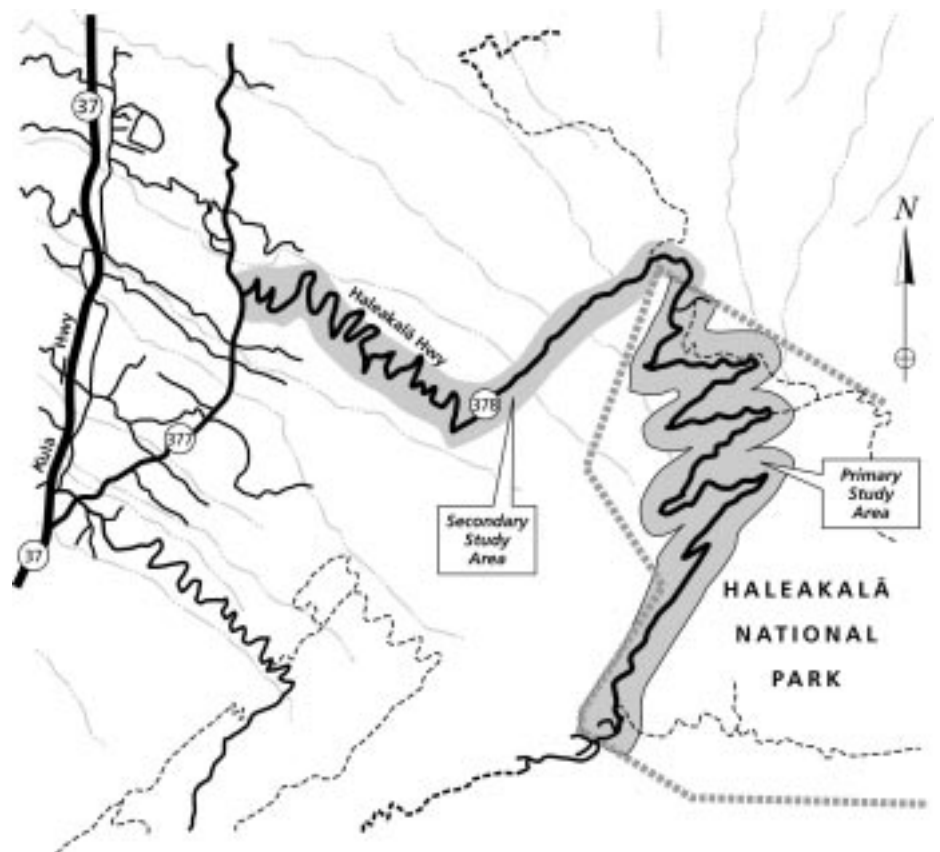
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Haleakalā National Park
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Makawao, HI 96768

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Haleakalā
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Open House

Thursday, April 10th at 6 p.m.
Mayor Hannibal Tavares
Community Center Hall,
Multipurpose Room
adjacent to the pool.



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Please use the form on the back of this page to submit your comments on the Haleakalā Summit Area Transportation Management Plan/EA. When you have completed the form, fold it, tape it at the bottom (do not staple), and drop it in the mail. Return this form by June 30, 2003.

If you want to be added to the mailing list or would like to make an address correction, please fill out the following:

- ☐ Check here to add your name to the mailing list
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Please fold card in half so Haleakalā Transportation Management Plan address is visible, tape it, and drop it in the mail. No postage is necessary.
Post Office requires that this mailpiece be folded and sealed with pieces of tape on right and left edges of the top opening.

Comment Form

(Feel free to attach additional pages)

Comments on Goals from the GMP - These goals are statements of desired outcomes that relate to the reasons why Haleakalā was designated as a National Park. Should this study have additional goals?

Comments on the Draft Issues and Concerns - Please review the issues and concerns presented and provide your comments. Also, please tell us if there are other issues or questions that you think should be addressed in the Transportation Management Plan.

Ideas - Please give us your ideas on how the park can improve visitors' experiences while protecting resources along the road and in the summit area.

Other Comments -